

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OES-07 CU-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 /087 W  
-----161709Z 019986 /47

R 161355Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2848  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14385

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, FR, WB, UK  
SUBJ: AXEN-GUIRINGAUD MEETING

REFS: A. BERLIN 6025. B. PARIS 13724. C. LONDON 7646.

1. WE RECEIVED BERLIN'S INFORMATIVE REFTTEL A AS WE  
WERE ABOUT TO DISPATCH IMPRESSIONS OFFERED US BY QUAI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR PLAISANT WHO ATTENDED AXEN MEETING WITH  
DE GUIRINGAUD. PLAISANT'S ACCOUNT CLOSELY PARALLELS  
KEY POINTS REPORTED FRENCH AMBASSADOR BAYLE IN BERLIN  
WITH ONLY MINOR DIFFERENCES IN NUANCE.

2. PLAISANT WAS EVEN FIRMER THAN BAYLE IN STRESSING  
VIGOR WITH WHICH DE GUIRINGAUD TOOK FIRST OPPORTUNITY  
TO INFORM AXEN THAT FRANCE WOULD "NEVER ACCEPT" GDR'S  
NATIONALITY CLAUSE IN A CONSULAR AGREEMENT. IN  
RESPONSE AXEN TROTTED OUT LONG, WELL-PREPARED PRESENTA-  
TION (WHICH WENT BEYOND REFERENCE TO THE LOME CONVEN-  
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TION'S DEFINITION AND ITS INFERENCE OF AN EVENTUAL  
UNIFICATION OF GERMANY, TO DISCUSSION FUNDAMENTAL LAW  
IN CONTEXT GERMAN NATIONALITY LAW OF 1913 AND BEFORE).  
DE GUIRINGAUD GOT INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT, REMARKED THAT  
FRENCH HAD NOT SIGNED THE GERMAN NATIONALITY LAW OF 1913  
AND CONCLUDED THAT ISSUE WAS PURELY THEORETICAL SINCE  
NO GDR CITIZEN HAD EVER BEEN PREVENTED FROM COMING TO

FRANCE FOR LACK OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT. IMPLICATION WAS THAT GDR COULD CONTINUE TO DO WITHOUT A CONSULAR AGREEMENT UNTIL ISSUE OF NATIONALITY CLAUSE WAS DROPPED. PLAISANT ADDED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT AXEN'S ARGUMENT HAD "CERTAIN TECHNICAL MERIT," BUT THAT DE GUIRINGAUD WAS NOT PREPARED TO TREAT ISSUE ON THAT BASIS. NO BREAKTHROUGH ON CONSULAR FRONT THEREFORE SEEMS IN THE CARDS FOR TIME BEING, ALTHOUGH CONTACTS WILL CONTINUE.

3. ON OTHER AGREEMENTS AND EXCHANGES REFERRED TO REFTELS, PLAISANT CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH SHOWED NO INTEREST IN A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WHICH "AXEN DANGLED BEFORE DE GUIRINGAUD AS A TEMPTATION" AT LEAST UNTIL CURRENT TENSIONS OVER BERLIN AND IN BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE EASED. ON THE OTHER HAND PLAISANT TOLD US THAT FRENCH WOULD REPEAT WOULD "AT SOME POINT" SIGN THEIR ALREADY INITIALLED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN LIMITED MOMENTUM IN FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS.

4. REGARDING POSSIBLE DE GUIRINGAUD VISIT, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED ALONG LINES REPORTED BERLIN'S REFTEL A, PLAISANT SHARES AMBASSADOR BAYLE'S IMPRESSION THAT IT IS NOT IN THE CARDS THIS YEAR; PARTLY BECAUSE DE GUIRINGAUD CONTINUES TO TAKE ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL BERLIN PROBLEMS QUITE SERIOUSLY; PARTLY BECAUSE HE RETAINS PERSONAL DISINCLINATION TOWARD THIS PROJECT.

5. PLAISANT CONFIRMS THAT DE GUIRINGAUD ALSO READ AXEN A FORTHRIGHT LECTURE ON BERLIN, AN APPROACH WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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BREAKS PRECEDENT HERE SINCE QUAI HAS SCRUPULOUSLY REFUSED IN PAST TO DISCUSS BERLIN ISSUES WITH GDR. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT GDR HAD BEEN DOING "A NUMBER OF DISTURBING THINGS" IN BERLIN; THAT MEASURES AFFECTING EQUILIBRIUM IN BERLIN COULD AFFECT OTHER ASPECTS OF RELATIONS; IN SHORT, THAT REPETITION OF RECENT GDR ACTIVITIES "COULD ONLY CAUSE TENSION." ACCORDING TO PLAISANT, AXEN SET OFF IN RESPONSE ON AN "INTERMINABLE" DIATRIBE. AFTER TEN MINUTES OR SO HE LOST DE GUIRINGAUD'S ATTENTION COMPLETELY, WAS TOLD THAT "ONE SHOULD INDEED CONTINUE TO DISCUSS ALL THIS AGAIN SOME DAY"--AND WAS IN EFFECT POLITELY USHERED OUT.

6. COMMENT: ON BROADER QUESTION RAISED PARA 12 BERLIN'S REFTEL A, OF FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD GDR RELATIONS, WE HAVE FOLLOWING SUMMARY IMPRESSIONS: FRENCH CONCERN FOR PRESENT REMAINS FOCUSED ON BERLIN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 14385

ANDREANI, PLAISANT AND OTHERS HERE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IN CASE OF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN BERLIN THE WESTERN RESPONSE TO BE CREDIBLE MUST GO BEYOND LOCAL BERLIN CONTEXT AND INVOLVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GDR AND USSR AND DETENTE. PLAISANT REITERATED TO US IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FRENCH WERE PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED AT THE LONDON SUMMIT TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON THIS POINT.

7. WHILE FIRMNESS ON BERLIN THEREFORE HAS CLEAR PRIORITY QUAL, PARTICULARLY AT PLAISANT LEVEL, IS ALSO ANXIOUS NOT TO BRAKE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GDR TO DEAD STOP. FOR THIS REASON PLAISANT CONSIDERED AXEN VISIT, WHICH FELL IN "PARLIAMENTARY" RATHER THAN  
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"OFFICIAL" FRAMEWORK, USEFUL TO MAINTAIN CERTAIN  
BALANCE. THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO REASON WHY GOF  
MAY SIGN SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT IN DUE COURSE. NEVERTHE-  
LESS, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT FRENCH TO DO TOO MUCH MORE  
FOR GDR IN THE SHORT- OR MEDIUM-TERM, UNLESS GDR  
ATTITUDES ON BERLIN BEGAN TO SHOW NOTABLE IMPROVEMENT.  
EVEN THEN, DE GUIRINGAUD'S APPARENT AVERSION TO EAST  
GERMANS IS NOT LIKELY TO LEAD TO LOVE FEAST VERY SOON.  
END COMMENT.  
GAMMON

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